Volume 18 No. 3 July 2007

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Oly 22 — case dismissed!

War, spies, politics, and extortion, but *The Olympian* editorial board just sees another Paris Hilton

by Phan Nguyen

The case of the "Oly 22" port protesters ended in a dismissal on June 12 after Thurston County District Judge Susan Dubuisson faulted the government for "gross negligence" in failing to provide the final 16 defendants with important discovery material in a timely manner before a second trial.

This concluded an extraordinary year of court proceedings that confronted issues of destroyed police evidence, the rare granting and revoking of the necessity defense, a prosecutor suffering an emotional breakdown during trial, a mistrial, and revelations of multiple government agencies spying on the defendants.

The case of the Oly 22 began in late May 2006, when Army Stryker vehicles from the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division began arriving at the Port of Olympia for eventual shipment to Iraq, in advance of the brigade's own deployment. This sparked a series of demonstrations by concerned Olympia residents against the use of the Port for furthering the US occupation of Iraq. During ten days of protest, and under the eyes of the international media, 37 arrests were made, with 22 activists being arrested on May 30—hence the name "Oly 22."

The *Olympian* plays prosecutor and judge

In a June 17 editorial entitled "Prosecution Blew Court Case," the *Olympian* faulted the Prosecutor's Office for not pursuing the case aggressively enough.

The editorial board was careful not to explicitly presume guilt, but intimated it while portraying the case as "high-profile." The article suggested that the charges should have been pursued with utmost attention, "given the publicity and emotion surrounding the port protests and arrests here and in Tacoma." That is, the case needed to be pursued aggressively for reasons unrelated to the actual charges, the weight of those charges, or the strength of the case. The *Olympian* advised that the prosecution of the Oly 22 should be dictated by "publicity and emotion," as well as by actions occurring outside of the county's jurisdiction in Tacoma that happened 10 months after the Olympia arrests.

The *Olympian* editorial board even pro-

▸ **Oly 22** continued on page 4

Oly 22 defendants, legal team, and supporters celebrate outside the Thurston County Courthouse following the dismissal of misdemeanor trespass charges and a year of court proceedings. *Photo by Janet Blanding.*

G8: Kings on tour, never mind the poor

By Rochelle Gause

For three days in early June, the leaders from the USA, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Italy, Russia, Japan and Germany gathered for the 33rd G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, a small German resort town on the Baltic Sea.

The G8 was created in 1974 to protect the interests of the world's most wealthy and powerful countries in the face of the oil crises and recession of that time. In the last decade the annual G8 summit has become subject to an increasing number of demonstrations. These protests are a rejection not only of the highly undemocratic nature of the 8 wealthy leaders (who represent only 13% of the total population) making decisions for all but also of their capitalist policies, which are spreading inequality and injustice worldwide. In response to the growing protest the G8 has attempted to put on a friendlier face, claiming their primary goal today is "how to shape globalization so that everyone stands a chance" and adding issues like aid to Africa and global warming to their agenda. Yet one does not have to look far to see through this rhetoric as the agreements they continue to make do little more than treat the symptoms of the problems while working hard to maintain western dominance. The growing resistance to the G8 and the current world order is helping to make this reality clear.

The alternative

The G8 demonstrations have provided the global justice movement the opportunity to bring attention to the desperate need for change from the exploitation of neoliberal globalization and an opportunity to network and try to live the alternative. The theme of this year's demonstrations that brought 80,000 people together was "Make Capitalism History." The organizers laid the groundwork for three camps that housed 15,000 demonstrators. Cooperatively run and volunteer driven, 3 meals were prepared daily of vegetarian food, there was an electricity station for recharging cell phones and batteries, an internet tent for uploading photos and indymedia news, a large circus tent for spokescouncil meetings with leaders of the affinity groups, ongoing trainings, informational points, and security, called "rabbits" who kept a 24-hour lookout for police raids. The infrastructure was incredibly well organized not only in the camps but also during the week's events which included concerts, marches, an alternative summit and action days leading up to the summit on themes of global agriculture, migration, and against militarism. The Block G8 campaign planned for the first day of the summit had been organized for a year and a half.

16 million dollar fence

Fearing the strengthening global justice movement and its power to disrupt the status quo, immense preparations were taken by the German police and military. Keeping with the recent G8 countries' trend of more walls, militarization and the erosion of civil rights, an 8 mile long steel fence was constructed with underground iron bars and topped with barbed wire, video surveillance and sensory detectors. The fence cost 16 million dollars, an exorbitant amount and yet only a small percentage of the 124 million dollars spent only on security for the summit. An exclusion zone of 10 miles was established from the shoreline of the Baltic Sea and extended 50 kilometers into the sky. A no demonstration zone was set by the police and upheld by the courts within 2.5 miles of the fence. 16,000 police officers were deployed with armored personnel carriers, helicopters, and water cannons as well as an unknown number of German soldiers, naval ships and spy jets. A few weeks before the summit police searched 40 homes and offices of various organizers and seized computers, discs and written documents throughout Germany. The raids were allowed on the basis of Germany's anti-terror laws. Samples of the odor of global justice organizers were also obtained in order to be able to identify them later through the use of police dogs.

G8 organizers and activists gather outside the opening demonstration on June 2nd in Germany. *Photo by Rochelle Gause.*

Achievements of the resistance

On the morning of the first day of the summit, the camp was stirring at 6:30 am as people prepared for the big day of action. Permits had been received for "rallies" that served as the gathering points just outside the edge of the no demonstration zone in three locations. The strategy for the blockades was made simpler by the fact that the fence had only three entrances. The area is so rural that few roads reach these entrances. In order to get to the roads and avoid as many police as possible the plan was to walk for miles through fields and forests in a decentralized manner so it would be impossible to prevent everyone from reaching the four blockade destinations. The five finger system, developed by the anti-nuclear movement, was used

▸ **G8** continued on page 3

Works in Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions
Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *submissions@olywip.org* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool
The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement
"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause
We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues
Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. *WIP* is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Chris Allert	Sandy Mayes
Janet Blanding	Patty Mosqueda
Dave Campbell	Phan Nguyen
Renee Cruickshank	hali panneton
Wally Cuddeford	Sandia Slaby
Christian DesMarets	Sylvia Smith
Brendan Funtek	Jeff Sowers
Drew Hendricks	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Scott Yoos

IMAGINE A COVER: Absent this month due to funding deficits, it's donations from readers like you that will keep that wall-to-wall WIP cover collage in the guest bedroom going strong.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline: July 20

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Cuba caravan celebration and presentation.
Traditions Cafe, Tuesday, July 3rd, 7 p.m.

This is your annual opportunity to learn about Cuba and give aid to an organization dedicated to defying the illegal blockade imposed by the United States. Attendees of the **Pastors for Peace caravan** headed to Havana will be there to answer any questions you have and explain why they defy the travel ban and deferred licensing process. The event is free and there will be a movie presentation and possible live band. Any amount of donation is accepted and tax-deductible too!

Also, get creative and bring disposable medical supplies for Cuba's global humanitarian medical program cut off from basic access by cruel US restrictions or new baseballs for the country's honored pasttime. For more suggestions about material aid and information/history of the caravan, visit www.pastorsforpeace.org. Viva Cuba!

See related article on page 5.

Movie: *Tibet, Cry of the Snow Lion*
Friday, July 6th, 7:00 pm, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2200 East End St., NW, Olympia

Ten years in the making, this award-winning feature-length documentary was filmed during nine journeys throughout Tibet, India and Nepal. It brings audiences to the long-forbidden "rooftop of the world" with an unprecedented richness of imagery...from rarely-seen rituals in remote monasteries, to horse races with Khamba warriors; from brothels and slums in the holy city of Lhasa, to magnificent Himalayan peaks still traveled by nomadic yak caravans. Discussion to follow film.

Open to all; free. Donations Appreciated—($5-$25) sliding scale. Presented by: The Alliance for Democracy, South Puget Sound Chapter and The Social Justice Committee, Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. To find out more, visit www.sounddemocracy.org and www.olyuu.org .

Oral Argument in *Corrie et al. v. Caterpillar*
Monday, July 9th, 9 AM, US Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit, Park Place Building, 21st Floor, 1200 6th Avenue, Seattle.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral argument in Corrie et al., v. Caterpillar. The hearing, to decide if the case can proceed, is at the US Court of Appeals in Seattle. Brought by **Rachel Corrie's parents** and **four Palestinian families**, the suit alleges Caterpillar sold Israel D9 bulldozers knowing they would be used to unlawfully demolish homes and endanger civilians.

Salmon Enhancement Group Summer BBQ
Thursday, July 12, 5-8 p.m., Priest Point Park, Kitchen #2 & #3

The **South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Grou**p will host a summer BBQ with free food, updates on salmon restoration projects in the South Sound, interpretive walks, and a fundraising raffle. Prizes include a 14' wooden boat and trailer, as well as live theater and movie tickets. For more information, contact SPSSEG at (360) 412-0808 or spsseg@spsseg.org

Mad Pride Day Celebration
July 13th, 7 p.m., Traditions Café, 300 5th Avenue SW, Olympia

A new event and a new organization are coming to Olympia this summer. Friday the 13th of July will see Oly's first Mad Pride Day celebration. Mad Pride is a celebration of the dignity and humanity of victims and survivors of the psychiatric industry. This industry has proven itself to be at best ineffective at helping people to deal with mental health issues, and at worst imperialist, colonialist and genocidal. Consider the fact that more people have died in psychiatric institutions in the US than all the US soldiers killed in all the wars the US has fought.

Oly's Mad Pride celebration will include a showing of the documentary, "Psychiatry: An Industry of Death", produced by the Citizen's Commission on Human Rights; a panel discussion on psychiatry, pharmaceuticals, eugenics and the 5th World; and we will have a "confessional", where people can tell stories of their experiences with the psychiatric industry. These stories will be recorded and, with permission, will be shared through the internet as part of a **5th World oral history project**. For more information, contact the Cascadia Center for 5th World Studies by email at: world5.rising@yahoo.com, or by phone at: 360.359.6920

Nonviolent Communication Workshop
Friday, July 13, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, July 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p. m., Lincoln Elementary School, 213 21st Ave. SE, Olympia

A day-long workshop to deal with many of the special issues, problems, and challenges that arise when putting the principles and methods of Nonviolent Communication into daily use. Self-empathy, hockey pucks, love, appreciations, dealing with teens, jackal shows, anger, protective use of force, and so on. A little theory and lots of practice, practice, practice. For anyone who has had an introduction to NVC. And if you haven't, come to the Friday evening session. With Suska Davis, Ph.D.

Saturday, July 14, 9 am – 5 pm, in Olympia, sliding scale fee: $35–$90/person. Fri., July 13, Intro to NVC, 7–9 pm, $10–$20.

"No Talking Heads" – Local News, Local People
Sundays at 5 p.m., KAOS, 89.3 FM, Olympia

"No Talking Heads" is a hour-long locally produced weekly review of the news, starting local and expanding to statewide, regional, national and international news. We strive to offer local perspectives on news that is important to folks in the South Sound. We want to offer more than a cursory read of headlines. The show is hosted by **Howard Rosenfeld**, former Breakfast Special host at KAOS. It airs every Sunday at 5pm on KAOS, 89.3 FM. We welcome your calls during the show at 360-867-5267. Tell us what news stories you're watching.

You can check the show blog for a run-down of news stories that we're tracking at http://notalkingheads.blogspot.com . You can also subscribe to our podcast here: blogradio.libsyn.com . The live show stream is accessible at the KAOS website: kaos.evergreen.edu

The Heart of Africa, by the International Trauma Treatment Program
Thursday, July 19th, 7 p.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 114 20th Ave SE, Olympia

Early this past winter, four faculty members of the International Trauma Treatment Program traveled to Uganda to conduct trainings, workshops, and to work with internally displaced people in refugee camps while collaborating with a local Ugandan relief organization, Pilgrim. Together, ITTP and Pilgrim created relationships and experiences great moments of collaboration. Please join us for an evening of photos, stories, and celebration.

For more info: 360-352-2974, email: ittpolympia@gmail.com, www.ittp.org

A fascinating evening with Eugene, Oregon culture change advocate, Jan Spencer
July 28th, 2007 7 p.m., Traditions Fair Trade Café, 300 5th Avenue, Olympia

Jan will weave together aspects of economics, urban land use, US foreign policy, global trends, Permaculture, and human potential in a unique analysis the concludes unprecedented eco logical culture change is highly recommended.

The presentation will show how many assets and allies of culture change already exist, some of them closer than we might think.

▸ **G8** continued from page 1

for this purpose; each affinity group had chosen a color and at the start of the event, as the police lined the street to block the demonstration, one of the five colors, led by a flag, headed directly into the waist high wheat fields. The surprised cops, in full riot gear, began running into the fields, and just then a second line of activists headed off but through another part of the field, and then the third, fourth and fifth. The police clearly felt overwhelmed and unsure of how to proceed as we walked right into the no demonstration zone.

During the four hour walk, we had to cross two additional roads to get to our blockading destination. In both instances the police had parked their vehicles on the road and were attempting to stand in the location where the first line of demonstrators would cross the road. But as each line began to split into several others lining the entire road the police were once again overwhelmed. Once the call was made everyone progressed at once, as the police swung their batons and attempted to stop us they could not handle the numbers. Water cannons were used to try and prevent the second crossing but many people simply sat on the road, distracting the police while the thousands of others crossed over.

Helicopters buzzed overhead quite low and brought police reinforcements but it did not matter. We were only one of three groups who numbered over 10,000 who were proceeding towards the fence. By the late afternoon all four entrances were blockaded, including the train track that was to bring in the mainstream press to cover the opening evening event. What allowed the movement to overcome the millions of dollars spent on security? The simplicity and extremely well organized plan, the determination of those who participated that enough is enough and the willingness to lay it down on the line to make this clear. And the tactics, that together, nonviolently thousands of people can take the unexpected path, walking not on the paved roads but through the fields and forest, simply sit down and cause tremendous inconvenience.

That evening, journalists and delegates were alerted to stay in their hotel rooms. The police managed to disperse with violence one of the blockades by nightfall in preparation for the morning, yet even on the second day many delegates were delayed for hours and had to be shuttled by boat. Only the eight leaders who had been flown in by helicopter were able to easily reach the summit location.

This was just one action, on the same morning the route from the airport was also blockaded. The following day 11 Greenpeace boats attempted to land on the shore of Heilingendamm to hand over a petition on global climate change. Throughout the entire week surrounding the summit spontaneous and creative actions could be spotted throughout the area. Doctors without borders leapt into the water reaching for a large bottle of medicine that was out of reach representing all those who could have access to necessary medicine at an affordable price if it wasn't for patents and the drug companies getting their cut. A large group of people dressed as pigs playing with globes surrounded by barb wire represented the G8, over 100 rebel clowns were seen everywhere, mocking the police and deescalating situations.

> A few weeks before the summit, police searched 40 homes and offices of various organizers and seized computers, discs and written documents throughout Germany. The raids were allowed on the basis of Germany's anti-terror laws.

"Achievements" of the G8

"German Chancellor Angela Merkel has booked another success for her style of quiet but persistent diplomacy at the Group of Eight (G8) summit in the northern resort of Heiligendamm," states the mainstream media playing their usual role of ignoring demonstrations and applauding the essentially empty agreements achieved at the summit that do nothing to effect the causes of the social and economic problems facing the world. An international media center was constructed to welcome the 4,000 journalists who came to Heilingendamm to cover the story. At the opening of this center sponsored by corporations including Nike, journalists were wined, dined and entertained with roasted pig, 20 varieties of mousse and a putting green, as well as a German News service link complete with the angle to cover the summit and demonstrations. Except for the few selected to travel through the fence to the staged photo ops, the majority never had to leave the comfort of their hotel and the International Media Center where a large video screen aired all that the journalists needed to see.

The agreed upon aid to Africa was no more than had been agreed during the last summit, an empty promise of meager charity yet to be fulfilled. Meager charity in the face of unbelievable poverty and the devastating effect of AIDS Africa is facing. What is needed is the cancellation of all debt and the allowance of generic drugs, neither of which will maintain the well-established structures of global capitalism and therefore are not appropriate solutions.

The well-publicized agreement on fighting climate change involved no firm commitment, rather several of the countries are "seriously considering" reducing worldwide emissions by half by 2050 – yes, 2050. The other agreements were little more than a continued celebration of the free market and attempts to applaud the very economic strategies that have gotten us into today's global reality where in the last ten years the number of people fighting starvation has risen from 840 million to 854 million while the tiny minority of millionaires and the super-rich were able to double their wealth from 16 trillion to 33 trillion dollars. They discussed a collective strategy against copyright piracy in developing nations, one of the few means of income for people to make money in depressed economies. They expressed concern over the North Korean and Iranian atomic programs which is quite ironic coming from nations who together currently have a total of over 26,000 nuclear weapons, 98% of the world's supply.

Make capitalism history

The greater the global injustice the larger the global resistance. The process of change is slow, but there is no shortage of fuel to spur the global justice movement. We must celebrate our accomplishments and continue to develop ways for more people to learn about and participate in them. Indymedia attempted to provide another perspective, with a half hour daily news program and podcasts, even in the face of police efforts to prevent this, like the temporary confiscation of the Amsterdam media bus. But there is incredible room for more work in this area. Overall, very little about the demonstrations was heard throughout the world.

Compared to the WTO demonstrations in Seattle in 1999, these demonstrations had a much stronger sense of unity, and a clearer vision of what is demanded.

There was no hesitation in claiming that the movement is first and foremost an anti-capitalist movement. The demands for an end to deportation and the "fortressing of the West" was made clear. North African immigrants were at the forefront of this voice at the demonstrations in Germany. The demand for democratic globalization, for fair relations and trade between all countries, for an economy based on solidarity, for the responsible and sustainable treatment of the environment, for peaceful and political solutions to conflicts were heard over and over again. The strength of the movement provided inspiration and the strength to not shy away from standing for the radical change required and for returning home to continue to support and create alternative structures in our own communities while drawing more and more lines connecting the various struggles.

As the week of demonstrations came to an end the police control was at its most extreme, turning the city into an occupied zone with checkpoints and constant intimidation. Over 700 people had been detained, many "preemptively" as allowed by German law for reasons as ridiculous as wearing black and having a bandana. Yet the spirit of the people who had participated in the actions was one of victory and a sense that no matter how much money and force can be mustered to maintain the world order, the people together can overcome it armed with a unified vision of equality and of a just life for all. The G8 summit in Heilingedamm gave the global justice movement a brief glimpse into their own strength which will have powerful implications for the future.

Rochelle Gause is a community activist and a member of the Olympia–Rafah Sister City Project. She can be reached at rochelle@riseup.net

Padded cops come with removable weapons and digital recorders. Protesters, other accessories sold separately.(Migration day of action, June 4th) *Photo by Rochelle Gause.*

▸ **Oly 22** continued from page 1

posed that "Holm should have put his best attorneys on the case from the start," not because the charges of misdemeanor trespass were comparable to rape or murder, but simply because it was a "high-profile case." Following the *Olympian*'s logic, the much greater high-profile case of Paris Hilton's driving with a suspended driver's license following a DUI should have been pursued by the US Attorney General's Office. No amount of prosecutorial power should be spared when the media is involved.

In reality, the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office pursued the case relentlessly, challenging the defendants in Superior Court, spending an entire year and over $25,000 of taxpayer money, spying on confidential attorney-client work product, and forcing a mistrial in order to start the case over when it was losing—all to prosecute misdemeanor trespassing charges. The case surely taxed the Prosecutor's Office, having gone through three attorneys, primarily with Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Debra Eurich, followed by Senior Attorneys Steve Straume and Jim Powers.

Rather than "drop[ping] the ball," as the *Olympian* editorial claimed, the prosecution did its best to secure convictions regardless of the validity of the cases—no doubt what the editorial board desired. As a result, the prosecution did everything it could with such a weak case.

During the first trial, the prosecution's case was so weak that all of its witnesses made repeated references to a physical line that the defendants had crossed but admitted that no such line was referenced on the day of the arrests and that there was no physical line. Moreover, the prosecution had attempted to show that such a line was in fact demarcated — not when the arrests were being made, but after the arrests were made. The judge prohibited presenting such evidence for obvious reasons.

Following the emotional breakdown of deputy prosecutor Eurich at trial and facing likely acquittals, senior deputy prosecutor Straume maneuvered into a mistrial. Straume introduced documents stolen from attorney–client communications in order to show that confidential jury information had been compromised and then asked the court to make an advisory. Transcripts and video from the trial show that Straume made sure that he would not be the one to introduce the possibility of a mistrial. However, as soon as the judge asked if a mistrial was in order, Straume clung to that as the only option, even when both the defense and the judge offered more reasonable alternatives.

In fact, the defendants were later able to show that the only point at which confidential information was compromised was through an unknown entity spying on defense emails and communicaing this to the prosecution. Straume withheld all information relating to the spy which could have averted the mistrial.

The prosecution clearly knew that it had been losing the trial. As was discovered after the mistrial, the jury was already 7 to 1 in favor of acquitting the defendants, and this was based solely on the prosecution's arguments; the defense had not yet argued its case.

If at first you don't succeed, mistrial and try again

With the mistrial successfully granted, the prosecution proceeded to change its strategy completely in order to increase its chances for convictions. First, the prosecution attempted to divide and conquer by filing a motion to separate all the defendants and try each one individually, which also would have given the prosecution 16 chances to secure guilty determinations. However when asked by the judge, the prosecution failed to explain how it expected to try 16 individual cases in less than a month, especially considering how the first trial was looking to last three weeks..

Next, the prosecution decided to drop one of its original 8 witnesses and then added 16 additional witnesses for a total of 23. It also asked all relevant Sheriff's Deputies to write additional reports for the May 30, 2006 incident and uncovered a document that remained undisclosed to the defendants for a year. This caused concern for Judge Dubuisson, who was not prepared to admit willful misconduct by the prosecutors, but accepted the less direct offense of "gross negligence" on the part of the government in general — not just the prosecution. Dubuisson recognized that the prosecution had dramatically changed its strategy for the second trial and did not provide adequate notice for the defense respond to the "new" discovery material.

Former Oly 22 defendants Wally Cuddeford and Ben Groves carry the Port Militarization Restistance (PMR) banner at the opening march of the United States Social Forum in Atlanta, Georgia, June 27, 2007. *Photo by Ryan Tompkins.*

It is unsurprising that the *Olympian* would criticize the Oly 22 for "skat[ing] on a technicality." If the defendants had won in trial, the *Olympian* would have criticized the prosecution for failing to secure convictions. The Oly 22 were already guilty in the eyes of the *Olympian*.

Moreover, the *Olympian* editorial incorrectly claimed that the May 2006 port protests were aimed at the "shipment of military equipment to armed forces in Iraq," and suggested that the actions might be "endangering [the US troops'] safety by attempting to deny them the equipment they need to carry out their mission." If it had taken the time to read its own reporting, the editorial board would have learned that the Stryker vehicles were being shipped from the Port of Olympia in advance of the deployment of its intended recipients. The protesters were not trying to prevent soldiers already in Iraq from receiving additional equipment but instead wanted to keep the soldiers of the 3rd Brigade and their equipment home.

Somebody has to pay— but pay for what?

Although the *Olympian* criticized the prosecution for sloppiness, that sloppiness did not result from indifference toward the case, but rather from the overdetermination to prosecute the case with the zeal that the *Olympian* demanded. The facts behind the case were unimportant. With the international media attention and the excessive use of police force, the Prosecutor's Office was expected to secure some convictions to show for it. It got none.

The Oly 22 were the scapegoats who were to be punished for the ten days of community-led anti-war protests and the subsequent embarrassment to the Port of Olympia and local police agencies. Part of that punishment was to be financial.

The Port of Olympia had amassed a sizable bill for security. It was invoiced $9096.50 from the Sheriff's Office, along with an estimated $16,000 from other police agencies. It alleged $2011 damage to the port fence—not $5000 as repeatedly cited by the *Olympian*—and not resulting from actions alleged to have been committed by the defendants. In fact the port admitted that the charge for the fence included damage that supposedly occurred on the day prior to the arrests. An additional $1937 was incurred by the port for cleanup costs for alleged actions committed while the defendants were already sitting in jail. The cleanup included power-washing antiwar messages that had been written in chalk on the pavement — never mind the fact that the chalk messages would have been washed away by the rain the following evening. The Port of Olympia demanded $29,045.10 "restitution" from the Oly 22, as well as from another defendant who had been charged with trespass seven days earlier.

And what did the *Olympian* editorial board say about the restitution demands? It concurred. In an editorial piece on June 5, 2006, entitled, "Protest Costs Must be Paid by Someone," the editorial board declared, "Protesters who are found guilty of breaking the law should pay full restitution costs." No attempt was made to explain how allegedly crossing an invisible line would incur thousands of dollars of supposed damage. The *Olympian* was not concerned with the exact criminal charges — simply that the "costs must be paid by someone" — and the Oly 22, if they had been "found guilty of breaking the law," would be the ones, regardless of what law they might have been guilty of breaking.

Such was the extent of the *Olympian* editorial board's concern. It expected the prosecution to pursue the Oly 22 not because of the charges themselves, but because the "high-profile case [was] important to community residents," and by losing the case before a second trial, the prosecution had "let this community down." The *Olympian* never explained why it was in the interests of the community to spend more than a year and more than $25,000 taxpayer money to pursue misdemeanor trespass charges based on weak evidence. The *Olympian* never wondered if it was in the interests of the community for the prosecution to spy on constitutionally-protected attorney–client work, or to have multiple gov't agencies spy on active members of the public at least since January 2006, as the Oly 22 case revealed. The *Olympian* never explained why it was in the community's interests to have the Port of Olympia be the conduit through which at least 37 members of the 3rd Stryker Brigade would be killed so far, along with countless Iraqis killed, and rising. (See page 8 of this issue for more details.)

The *Olympian* expressed no concern that the defendants receive a fair trial, that they were innocent until proven guilty, and that the prosecution had the burden of proving the charges. The *Olympian* did not express any concern over the fact that the prosecution had forced a mistrial when it knew it was losing the case, or that the defendants were under threat of double jeopardy when the prosecution attempted to retry the case using a different strategy after recognizing that its previous strategy did not work well in the first trial.

Who needs democracy when we have a free press?

The *Olympian* editorial board is comprised of the paper's publisher, the executive editor, and the editorial page editor, along with two rotating members of the public, and usually a sixth member who is employed by the *Olympian*. Throughout the years and due to its makeup, the board's concern has been maintaining the status quo. Its outlook toward activists reflects the outlook ascribed by other non-activist critics who merely value democracy in the abstract. Such people adhere to the following tenets: (1) Protesting the state is acceptable only within the parameters offered by the state, and (2) One should remain grateful to the state for being granted permission to protest the state.

The flaw is in crediting the state for allowing dissent to be voiced, rather than recognizing the activists who put themselves at risk for expressing dissent and the activists who went before them who paved the way for later generations to express dissent. Such freedoms were not won by conducting bombing raids overseas or by electing the lesser of two evils, but rather by challenging the restrictions of the state at home, on the streets, and in the courtrooms.

The *Olympian* is concerned with maintaining civility at home in order to mask the chaos inflicted by and inflicted upon the US military in Iraq. The true crime of the Oly 22 was in violating the civility of restrained protest. As the *Olympian* editorial demonstrates, the actual charges were irrelevant. The protests had crossed the line from merely expressing opinion to attempting to enact change, and somebody had to pay for it.

With the US occupation of Iraq in its fifth year, we need to rethink pretenses of keeping civility, of our concern to not upset the norm as we highlight the chaos that is being exported in our names.

The state can give an almost unlimited number of options for its people to express disapproval of war, but it amounts to nothing if it leaves no options to prevent or stop a war.

Activists know that this not a game. If the notion of "supporting the troops" means attaching a two-dimensional magnetic representation of a yellow ribbon to the back of one's automobile, then we should abandon the notion of supporting the troops with a call to save the troops. This concept remains foreign to the mainstream media and just adds to the irrelevancy of the mainstream media in the face of global struggles.

Democracy is fragile, not because of insurgents or terrorists, but because it depends on the resolve of the people. And it is too easy for that resolve to waver, to be taken for granted, or misdirected, or reduced to mere symbols, slogans, and rhetoric.

Absent an appeal, the Oly 22 case is over, but the struggle continues.

Phan Nguyen was one of the defendants of the Oly 22. He is currently defending himself in Tacoma against another frivolous charge: a traffic violation that resulted from walking on a public sidewalk while wearing a backpack with a copy of the US Constitution during an antiwar protest.

Cuba: A nation forgotten

by Brendan Funtek

Out of all the grim remnants remaining from the Cold War era, the trade blockade and travel ban imposed on Cuba casts the longest shadow from the US. This shadow's stretch doesn't have to extend far since Cuba is a mere 90 miles from Florida, but it's been the most historically persistent. In fact, when broached on the subject, I've found people often aren't aware there's still an "embargo" and are somewhat aware of the travel ban but confused as to its origin. This makes discussion of Cuba complex.

George Carlin said in a 1972 routine that the most difficult thing about having a beard was people thought he was a "commie–fag–junkie" and that "it's tough to talk them out of three things at once." The same challenge exists with conversations here about Cuba. Simultaneously explaining why Castro isn't the oppressive dictator he's demonized to be, how Cuba has suffered pointlessly due to severe trade restrictions and why the country's not going to imminently collapse once Castro is dead are just a few of the hurdles. It's never fun for people to realize they've unwittingly become another propaganda pawn in the elaborate bogeyman stories the US has spread about Cuba since getting humiliated at the Bay of Pigs.

Even worse, any conversations about Cuba that rest on the defensive end leave little time to explain about all the positive developments happening that leave international observers in reverent awe. An unprecedented health care policy that not only provides all Cubans with free health care but extends their treatment to other nations, regardless of political beliefs. The US government notoriously chose Blackwater operatives for Katrina victims over the thousand Cuban doctors prepared to offer experienced hurricane treatment at no cost or expectation. A government that treats illiteracy with the same dire concern that other nations fixate on their trade surplus. Cuba's energy conservation policies born out of necessity to the trade restrictions that are becoming emulated worldwide.

But what deserves its own paragraph is the offer of free medical school to any aspiring US student who isn't interested in acquiring over a hundred thousand dollars in debt from their own country. Six years of medical school is offered at the Latin America School of Medicine along with a preliminary course for those who don't speak Spanish to learn, and a program in the last year that prepares students for the US license test. The offer extends to 500 students and less than a hundred from this country are currently involved.

But the simplest way to learn about Cuba is to go there. It's true, the US offers a travel license that involves scrutiny, background checks, excessive paperwork and a likely rejection (especially if you're Cuban-born and hoping to see a dying relative). But why contribute to their ridiculous charades? Reject the licensing process.

And it's also true that you can go to Canada or Mexico and catch a flight to Cuba. But why be evasive for the simple matter of going to a country that will welcome you?

I had the opportunity to travel to Cuba last year with Pastors for Peace, an internationally comprised caravan, and the experience was life-altering.

My initial interest in Cuba came at a young pre-teen age when I learned that we, as priviledged citizens of the United States, are not allowed to travel there. Already attentive to the reality of US foreign policy, I planned for Cuba to be the first foreign country I would ever go to. And outside of the Canada–Mexico sphere, the plan came through and my memories will be resplendent through life.

The inspiration emanating from the Literacy Museum (built on land converted from a former military base) left me teary-eyed about Cuba's immediate and successful actions to end illiteracy once the Revolution came to be. The brilliance of an improv children's theater group that performed for our caravan along with festivities from various communities. The pastoral beauty of Havana province.

Also, our caravan was given significant access to the political and religious groups in Cuba, which was essential to truly learning the country (and an opportunity rarely afforded to those who travel alone and confused). There were so many pinch-me moments like when I was speaking with Communist Youth members about the US's harsh treatment toward juveniles and defiance of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I asked how they treat juveniles who commit crimes and was astonished of their patience and optimism relative to my country's policies.

An Evergreen student puts headphones on the John Lennon statue in a Havana park while children play soccer in the background. *Photo by Eddie Hunter.*

Cuba provides so many positive examples to social issues we in the U.S. struggle with that conceptions like ideology feel moot. Who cares what we label ourselves or what party we side with when countries with far less resources than us offer better sustainable networks for their people? Meanwhile, our people live in fear and witness the negligent horrors of Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina. These are not the thoughts my government wanted me to mull over when returning to the US and this is why they prevent people from going to Cuba.

The best way to travel there is with those in mutual conscience to the injustice of US foreign policy. There are two US-based groups that annually make such a trip.

Venceremos Brigade is a work brigade that spends three weeks in solidarity with the Cuban workers on whatever project is assigned to them. They cross in Buffalo, New York, publicly en route to their Canada flight to create awareness to their defiance of the travel ban

Pastors for Peace (an interfaith caravan that assembles all those interested in making the journey regardless of belief) collects material aid through 14 routes around the US. Every place they stop is given a presentation on the history of the caravan along with all the answers to questions people have about Cuba but are too shy to ask. I found this portion of the trip to Cuba inspiring in and of itself with all the people I met around the country. Then PFP crosses the Mexico border, subjected to the US Border Patrol's harassment to and from.

One of the PFP routes is traveling through Olympia on July 3. Come to Traditions Café (300 5th Avenue in downtown Olympia) at 7 pm to hear their story, and feel free to bring some disposable medical supplies or money to donate.

Brendan Funtek is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

Transit, lies and videotape: Who's behind the cameras?

On June 6, Intercity Transit's board (known as the IT Authority) took the decision to spend $667,500 to buy closed circuit television cameras to monitor their buses. The system will be purchased from a company called Verint Systems Inc, which is a US intelligence industry contractor.

The video system will include between four and six cameras on each bus, covering both the inside and outside of the vehicle. A microphone will pick up conversations at the fare box as well. All of the video and audio will be stored on hard drives installed on the buses, until it is downloaded back at the bus maintenance yard. A wireless capability is built into the system to facilitate downloading video from the buses remotely.

Policies and procedures adopted at the meeting seem to imply that the video system will only be used for "tagged events" such as incidents the operator (bus drivers are called operators) noticed during the day. The policy states that these video frames will be downloaded manually and burned onto DVD discs for storage, at which point they become public documents subject to disclosure. But because the video system can also be downloaded wirelessly, it opens up the potential for the system as a whole to be used for cataloging the face and clothes of every Evergreen student who uses the bus.

Of course, with recent Green Scare convictions of people who lived in Olympia, no one could ever foresee the US Intelligence community's interest in such a system for political surveillance. Intercity Transit claims that the video system is designed to reduce false claims made by passengers against IT operators and equipment for personal injury. A figure of about $14,000-16,000 per year was cited as the cost saved by installing the video system. But the system will cost $667,500 just to acquire and install, never mind maintenance. That's at least 41 years until the system pays for itself under this set of assumptions, the key fault of which is the notion that the video systems will never prove the claims to be correct! So the question has to be asked: who is spurring IT to install this expensive digital video system, and for what real purpose?

Another key claim is that the system will "improve safety for our operators." But since the system's video feed is not monitored live, it cannot help improve safety with anything but a diminishing deterrent effect. Long experience with pervasive surveillance has shown that people actually do stupid, dangerous things on camera despite knowing about the surveillance. Numerous videos of the world's 'most stupid criminals' can prove this to anyone, if the TV show "The Real World" did not.

> Our question as riders of this system should be: what are we going to do about it, now that IT has already decided to spend our money buying this system?

Verint Systems Inc was founded in 1994, and does not manufacture any of the cameras or network components itself. It holds the copyright on a software package for managing video intelligence taken from the system, but partners with manufacturers to actually produce the cameras, interconnections, storage systems, and power supplies for their systems.

Verint describes itself as a US Government contractor in intelligence: "Verint leads the industry in Networked Video Solutions for detecting potential threats, improving emergency event management, reducing liability and loss, and increasing operational efficiency. Verint Communications Interception & Analytics Solutions help government and law enforcement agencies neutralize threats from criminals and terrorists and help communications service providers comply with government mandates on electronic surveillance."

Several members of Verint's board of directors should give us an insight into why this company really exists: Lt. Gen. (Retired) Kenneth A Minihan served as the 14th Director of the National Security Agency / Central Security Services and was the senior uniformed intelligence officer in the Department of Defense. Lt. Gen. (Retired) Minihan also served as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He is the President of the Security Affairs Support Association and he consults for national security and intelligence committees.

Mr. Victor A De Marines recently served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of MITRE Corporation (where he remains a Director), which provides security solutions for the computer systems of the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Internal Revenue Service and several organizations in the U.S. intelligence community. Mr. De Marines recently served as an advisor to the Department of Defense on matters concerning the transformation of the military. Mr. Howard Safir served as the 39th Police Commissioner of the City of New York. He also served as Associate Director for Operations, U.S. Marshals Service, as Assistant Director of the Drug Enforcement Administration and as Chief of the Witness Security Division, U.S. Marshals Service. Mr. Safir is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SafirRosetti, a division of OmnicomGroup, Inc.

In February 2002, the company changed its name from Comverse Infosys to Verint Systems and shortly afterward in May, added these three directors to their board. With friends like these it should be quite easy to see how the video capabilities of our local bus system could come to the attention of the US intelligence industry.

Our question as riders of this system should be: what are we going to do about it, now that IT has already decided to spend our money buying this system? Will we quit using the public system, and make a cooperative transportation system of our own? Or will we be willing to wear our hoodies and otherwise disguise ourselves just to ride the bus? Perhaps the application of stickers at key points will notify passengers that they are no longer on view of certain cameras, due to the opacity of the sticker! The possibilities are endless, but I'm ruling out complacency in my own response.

Drew Hendricks is a member of Olympia Copwatch, Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace, and Olmpia Port Militarization Resistance.

How many car crashes can state patrol ignore when protecting Nazis?

by Pat Tassoni

As we pass the anniversary of when a dozen Nazis came to demonstrate at the state Capitol building on July 3, 2006 and because the Washington State Patrol by their own insistence provided 'security' for the event with 275 troopers, we have an opportunity to look at the myth of police effectiveness. I'm not going to address the estimated $50,000 wasted in staff time and fencing the grounds to keep hundreds of peaceful protesters from interacting with the nazis, but rather the change in collision statistics as the troopers abandoned their normal patrol activities for that day. Troopers were pulled off their regular assignments of driving the state's highways, leaving the roads to anarchy. Well, WSP did most likely replace less experienced troopers on some of the abandoned routes as the regular trooper was suited up in riot gear to stand in the sun for hours in front of the Nazis.

The following is not meant to be an in-depth sociological study but a cursory glance at imperfect data -- but it does offer intriguing data from a unique day that has neither scientific controls nor an institutional drive to know the truth. To begin with, no agency, including WSP, maintains a central source of the daily activities of their troopers throughout the state such as tickets written, stops made, etc. Furthermore a list of tracked results, of whether or not tickets issued were later thrown out of court, whether or not stops made resulted in arrests and convictions, etc could not be found. Who knows what WSP is doing? It was suggested by a state worker that I'd have to go county by county through each level of courts to find what really happened that day. Does having fewer troopers on the road mean less speeding? Does society collapse without their presence? What does happen when you pull troopers off the highways, replacing some with less experienced ones? Are better or worse tickets issued? Are better or worse stops made? Surely, if the state really cared to know, they could find out with the vast resources at their fingertips.

The police as an institution rely on the idea or myth that their mere presence is a deterrent to crime, speeding, and the collisions which presumably result. On July 3, we were given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to stumble into an analysis of this myth, but are unable to fully evaluate it because of a lack of serious data. What happens when the police are reduced or absent? Nothing significant. According to the state Department of Transportation, a report for collisions on state routes that occurred on July 3rd for the last four years proves it. (Not unexpectedly, there were no significant weather extremes on these early summer days that would impact traffic safety.) In 2003 there were 171 collisions resulting in 67 injuries; in 2004 there were 116 collisions resulting in 40 injuries; in 2005 there were 122 collisions resulting in 49 injuries; and in 2006 [the year of the nazis] there were 125 collisions resulting in 53 injuries. The telling year is less than a 3% increase in collisions, but well within the norm for the last three years. Having fewer troopers on the roads apparently didn't change anything, for better or for worse – it's like they were never there anyway.

Pat Tassoni was the organizer of "Nazis are Clowns" and is suing the Washington State Patrol on another matter.

Making Stalin proud:
Renewed repression of Guantanamo Bay prisoners

by Marco Rosaire Rossi

When the Democrats were swept into power last November, Americans were hoping they would clean up the havoc waged by the Bush Administration. One of the things on that list was the closing down of the gulag Guantanamo Bay. An online poll from www.about.com showed that almost 60% of the pollsters wanted the detention center shut down. As of June, the Democrats still haven't done their job—even though reports are coming in that the situation for the prisoners there is getting worse.

In early April, Australian Guantanamo Bay prisoner David Hicks signed a deal with the US Justice Department saying he would be released from detention after a nine month sentence if he plead guilty to the charge of providing "material support" to a terrorist organization. When news broke, reporters and attorneys were scratching their heads.

Not only was the deal made in extreme secrecy—not even the prosecuting attorney for the case knew about it—but it wasn't too long ago that the Justice Department was claiming Hicks was one of the "worse of the worse" in the war on terror.

Why did such an extreme terrorist get such a light sentence? Even more remarkable were the finer parts of the deal.

A silencing method

The plea agreement forbids Hicks from talking about his experience at Guantanamo publicly for an entire year. Robert Richter, one of Australia's most experienced criminal lawyers and supporter of Hicks said that the whole process was a sham: "First there was the indefinite detention without charge. Then there was the torture, however the Bush lawyers, including his attorney general, might choose to describe it. Then there was the extorted confession of guilt." In general, Richter said, "Guantanamo Bay would have done Stalin's show trials proud."

The eagerness that the Justice Department has had in wrapping up the Hicks trial comes at a time when the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay are facing harsher repression. This past April, the human rights organization Amnesty International came out with a report that said Guantanamo Bay is "pushing people to the edge." Around 300 prisoners have been moved from their regular facilities into new ones known as Camp 5, Camp 6, and Camp Echo. These facilities are modeled after "super-max" (maximum security) prisons in the United States. Prisoners are confined to windowless cells, held for 22 hours a day, and only allowed to exercise at night. Some prisoners have gone days without seeing any daylight. When they are released for exercise, prison officials use the opportunity to rummage through their cells and examine what personal items they have.

> The idea that the phrase "enemy combatant" can open the door to such heinous crimes is quite frightening. But advocates of torture and arbitrary detention can't hide behind their phony legalese forever—or can they?

Some have speculated that the Hicks trial was quickly diverted to prevent the worsening conditions in Guantanamo Bay from leaking out. The day before the deal was struck, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates told a congressional committee in Washington that he believed Guantanamo Bay should be shut down, not because of abuses, but because of the negative view it has formed with the international community. For Gates, the verdict of the Hicks trial won't matter, because the international community has biased itself too much against the United States: "No matter how transparent, no matter how open the trials, if they took place in Guantanamo, in the international community they would lack credibility." What Gates didn't mention was that the international community believes that Guantanamo Bay lacks credibility—because it does lack creditability. For the past five years—half a decade—the Bush administration has used the Guantanamo Bay prisoners as legal guinea pigs, torturing and indefinitely detaining them without regard for the law or human decency.

The Bush administration has gotten away with this legal and political mayhem because of its insistence that those detained at Guantanamo Bay are not prisoners of war, but "unlawful enemy combatants"—a term created by the Bush administration as a means of ignoring the prisoners' rights promised in the Third Geneva Convention. The degree to which this term has seeped into the political, legal, and military culture would have made Orwell gasp. Karen J. Greenberg, a journalist visiting Guantanamo Bay, reported that she witnessed another journalist being chastised by military officials for referring to those detained at Guantanamo Bay as "detainees." The proper term—if you want to talk to military personal—is "detained enemy combatants."

Of course, if the Bush administration was really serious about upholding international law then semantics won't matter. The Third Geneva Convention makes clear that if a person is captured on the battlefield then that person shall be assumed to be a prisoner of war until a neutral judicial body determines otherwise. And even if a neutral judicial body determined the prisoners at Guantanamo Bay to be "enemy combatants" that still won't legalize their torture and indefinite detention. Article 7 of The International Covenant on Civil Political Rights, which Congress ratified in 1992, states: "No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"; Articles 9 and 10 guarantee "all persons" a right to fair speedy trial, access to an attorney, and due process. This means that the nations that the so-called "enemy combatants" in Guantanamo Bay are from could sue the United States in international court for violating this treaty.

How long can this continue?

The idea that the phrase "enemy combatant" can open the door to such heinous crimes is quite frightening. But advocates of torture and arbitrary detention can't hide behind their phony legalese forever—or can they? In a recent debate with Republican presidential candidates, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney said that he wants Guantanamo Bay to double in size. At the same event, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Congressman Tom Tancredo suggested that they support the use of torture. The mainstream never even commented on the issue.

President Bush has constantly reminded Americans that the reason the United States was attacked on September 11th was because the terrorists hate our way of life—our freedom and democracy. In the twisted logic of imperialism his message is somewhat reassuring. If the crisis at Guantanamo Bay continues, then soon we won't have any freedom and democracy left for anyone to hate. Hopefully then, all the terrorists will leave us alone; and maybe then they will finally shut down Guantanamo Bay.

Marco Rosaire Rossi is a member of the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace.

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Creative nonviolence and hostile protest behavior

by Rob Whitlock

I went to the Tacoma Convention Center on June 6th to witness the Special Operations West 2007 Weapons Exposition. The marketing exposition showcased the latest in high-tech weapons and the specialized tools of killing, compliance, surveillance and reconnaissance that are available only to elite military forces and law enforcement. But my reason for going was not to get the lowdown on the latest implements and efficiencies in the dealing of death, you see; I oppose killing. I wanted to witness the human side of the weapons marketing equation and to represent all of the people who were unable to express their own opposition to death dealing. I went to find a deeper understanding of the people who market, sell, distribute and consume weapons of violence and death. But mostly I went to bear vigilant and conscious witness to the event.

I showed up with three others who opposed the exposition, the war, and the making of war profits. On a first drive around the building we did not see any protesters. So we parked and walked back to find the protest. By the time we arrived at the North entrance, there were others gathered and actively expressing their opposition to the market of suffering that was taking place inside the pavilion. One man, Ray from Puyallup, held a sign quoting General Smedley Butler, which read "War is a Racket." Another man held a collage of images that showed suffering Iraqis.

I was glad to be there. It was an important expression of disapproval for the purposeful distribution of and profiting off of these weapons of destruction and division. My fellow protesters inspired me; their message and presence strengthened my own.

On the car ride to the exposition I had a good, though brief, conversation about nonviolence and antagonism and protest demonstrations. I mentioned my concern about hateful behavior and abrasive / hostile language at events like the one we were headed towards. The person driving me said that it was her desire to antagonize the war-profiteers. I told her that I didn't think that antagonism was an effective tool for promoting social change. We were able to have a friendly discussion about the use of hateful, hostile, antagonistic, language and behavior, in the context of protest. This conversation set the tone for the rest of the event and helped to clarify much of the recent thinking that I have been doing about the role of nonviolence and the problem of hostility at protests.

I have been doing a lot of brainstorming about creative nonviolence for about a year now. I started thinking about nonviolence in the context of the arrival of a genuine band of Nazis to Olympia. If you remember that, you might remember the hostile and hateful greeting that the Nazis received from the "peace and justice" community of Olympia. So you can thank the Nazis for provoking these thoughts and musings on how to most effectively oppose violence and work toward the development of a truly peaceful and prosperous society.

When the Nazis came to Olympia I saw a lot of hateful behavior not only from the Nazis, but from some of those who opposed the Nazis. Does the fact that Nazis spew rhetoric of hate and violence make it acceptable for those of us in the "tolerant" community to do the same? The use of hate speech "against" them actually serves to legitimize their own use of hate speech, and also lowers us to their level. I am sure that there are enough of us in the "tolerant" community with enough imagination to respond in a sober manner and with constructive criticism. Creative and serious expressions of disapproval, rather than displays of antagonism, shouting, also are more fitting to the gravitas of facing an invasion of Nazis. So what's stopping us?

The basis of my argument against the use of hateful, hostile and antagonistic behavior is threefold. First of all, I don't like to be subjected to hate. I don't like to be approached in anger. I don't like to be hurt or antagonized. Therefore, it is important for me to exercise reciprocity, or the Golden Rule.

> Protests would be most effective by having a critical mass of people who are committed and willing to participate in life-serving acts of creative nonviolence including civil disobedience.

How can we advocate for de-escalation, for an end to violence and hostilities if we are unwilling to let go of them ourselves? If we want to put an end to needless suffering, to the injustices being committed by our government, we must also set an example and create a model for how people can interact without resorting to harmfulness and violence. Gandhi said that there is no way to peace—but that peace itself is the way.

The second part is that I am uncomfortable when I'm around hostile and antagonistic demonstrators. Belligerent sloganeering and hostile speech put me on edge. And I know that I am not alone. If the goal is a mass movement, a grass roots movement, then there will need to be masses of people. But it will be hard to amass the necessary number of individuals if people feel uncomfortable in the protest environment, and cannot peacefully participate. Instead of shouting abrasive slogans and making demands of our adversaries, it would be more effective to demonstrate an attitude of understanding. We have the ability to create a more comfortable and welcoming protest atmosphere.

Weapons merchants leave the killing and death exposition, enticed by the smooth, reasoning sounds of peaceful protester chants. *Photo by Phoebe Blanding.*

I think that protests would be most effective by having a critical mass of people who are committed and willing to participate in life-serving acts of creative nonviolence including civil disobedience. We can promote the formation of a critical mass by developing a comfortable, welcoming and fun activist environment, embracing a diversity of tactics. More people will bring their children and participate in actions of sacrifice or nonviolent physical obstruction like roadblocks, if there is a peaceful environment. Violence in the form of shouting profanities, vulgarities and slurs (not to mention acts of physical violence) works counter to the creation of this possibility.

Another problem with hostile environments is that it is easier for agent provocateurs to infiltrate. Whether in the protest setting or in other aspects of organizing, the security of the movement can be better maintained by having a calm and comfortable environment. The security issue reaffirms the claim that hostility is problematic – and in multiple ways.

The third part of my argument also has to do with effectiveness. How does the use of hateful behavior promote peace? Does the use of hateful behavior promote change? Or is it possible that hostility actually serves to further the divide, and the misunderstanding, between us? I argue that antagonistic behavior amongst activists is counterproductive. For one, when people approach me in anger, I go into fight or flight. Even when I am in the wrong I find it exceedingly difficult to admit my error, when I am confronted in an angry and hostile manner. If I won't admit my wrongs in the face of hostile accusation how can I be expected to begin the processes of remediation and reconciliation?

Rob Whitlock is a resident of Olympia.

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Stryker Brigade fatalities: the consequences of militarization of our ports

date	name	age	rank	home town	location	cause of death	unit
3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division — via Port of Olympia, May 2006:							
08.20.06	Gabriel G. DeRoo	25	SGT	Paw Paw, MI	Mosul	small arms fire	2/3 Inf
08.27.06	Kenneth M. Cross	21	SPC	Superior, WI	Baghdad	IED/small arms fire	1/23 Inf
08.27.06	Daniel G. Dolan	19	PFC	Roy, UT	Baghdad	IED/small arms fire	1/23 Inf
09.03.06	Richard J. Henkes II	32	SFC	Portland, OR	Mosul	IED	2/3 Inf
09.25.06	Casey L. Mellen	21	CPL	Huachuca City, AZ	Mosul	small arms fire	5/20 Inf
09.30.06	Robert F. Weber	22	SPC	Western Hills, OH	Mosul	vehicle rollover	1/37 FA
10.07.06	Carl W. Johnson II	21	CPL	Philadelphia, PA	Mosul	IED	2/3 Inf
11.06.06	Lucas T. White	28	SGT	Moses Lake, WA	Baghdad	IED/small arms fire	1/23 Inf
11.14.06	Justin R. Garcia	26	SPC	Elmhurst, NY	Baghdad	IED	1/23 Inf
11.21.06	Henry K. Kahalewai	43	SSG	Hilo, HI	Baghdad	IED	1/14 Cav
12.03.06	Billy B. Farris	20	CPL	Bapchule, AZ	Taji	IED	5/20 Inf
01.04.07	Charles D. Allen	28	SSG	Wasilla, AK	Baghdad	IED	296th BSB
01.24.07	Hector Leija	27	SSG	Houston, TX	Baghdad	small arms fire	1/23 Inf
03.14.07	Brian L. Chevalier	21	CPL	Athens, GA	Mufrek	IED	5/20 Inf
03.15.07	Freeman L. Gardner	26	SGT	Little Rock, AR	Baghdad	IED	18th Eng
03.21.07	Darrell R. Griffin	36	SSG	Alhambra, CA	Sadr City	small arms fire	2/3 Inf
04.07.07	Jesse L. Williams	25	SSG	Santa Rosa, CA	Baqubah	small arms fire	5/20 Inf
04.18.07	Wade J. Oglesby	27	CPL	Grand Junction, CO	Taji	IED	1/37 FA
04.18.07	Michael M. Rojas	21	CPL	Fresno, CA	Taji	IED	1/37 FA
05.06.07	Matthew L. Alexander	21	CPL	Gretna, NE	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.06.07	Anthony M. Bradshaw	21	CPL	San Antonio, TX	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.06.07	Jason R. Harkins	25	SGT	Clarkesville, GA	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.06.07	Joel W. Lewis	28	SGT	Sandia Park, NM	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.06.07	Michael A. Pursel	19	CPL	Clinton, UT	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.06.07	Vincenzo Romeo	23	SSG	Lodi, NJ	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.10.07	Jason W. Vaughn	29	SGT	Iuka, MS	Baqubah	IED	5/20 Inf
05.24.07	Iosiwo Uruo	27	SGT	Agana Heights, Guam	Buhriz	small arms fire	1/14 Cav
05.26.07	Charles B. Hester	23	PFC	Cataldo, ID	Baghdad	IED	2/3 Inf
05.31.07	Chadrick O. Domino	23	SGT	Ennis, TX	Baghdad	small arms fire	1/23 Inf
06.02.07	Romel Catalan	21	SPC	Los Angeles, CA	Ameriyah	IED	1/23 Inf
06.03.07	James C. Akin	23	SGT	Albuquerque, NM	Thania	IED	1/37 FA
06.03.07	Greg P. Gagarin	38	SSG	Los Angeles, CA	Thania	IED	1/37 FA
06.03.07	Tyler J. Kritz	21	SGT	Eagle River, WI	Thania	IED	1/37 FA
06.03.07	Robert A. Surber	24	SGT	Inverness, FL	Thania	IED	1/37 FA
06.05.07	Andrew J. Higgins	28	SGT	Hayward, CA	Baqubah	small arms fire	5/20 Inf
06.09.07	Scott Alan Miller	20	PVT	Casper, WY	Baqubah	small arms fire	5/20 Inf
06.10.07	Brian M. Long	32	SSG	Burns, WY	Baghdad	explosive ordnance	2/3 Inf
4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division — via Port of Tacoma, March 2007:							
05.10.07	Anthony J. Sausto	22	PVT	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Baghdad	small arms fire	1/38 Inf
05.17.07	Aaron D. Gautier	19	PFC	Hampton, VA	Baghdad	IED/small arms fire	2/23 Inf
05.17.07	Jonathan V. Hamm	20	PFC	Baltimore, MD	Baghdad	indirect enemy fire	2/23 Inf
05.22.07	Kristopher A. Higdon	25	SSG	Odessa, TX	Taji	IED	4/9 Inf
05.22.07	David C. Kuehl	27	SSG	Wahpeton, ND	Taji	IED	4/9 Inf
05.22.07	Robert A. Worthington	19	PFC	Jackson, GA	Taji	IED	4/9 Inf
05.25.07	Mathew P. LaForest	21	SPC	Austin, TX	Taji	small arms fire	4/9 Inf
05.28.07	Thomas M. McFall	36	SSG	Glendora, CA	Baghdad	IED	1/38 Inf
05.28.07	Junior C. Sanchez	20	PFC	Miami, FL	Baghdad	IED	1/38 Inf
06.02.07	William J. Crouch	21	SPC	Zachary, LA	Al Hadid	IED	2/1 Cav
06.09.07	Cory M. Endlich	23	SGT	Massillon, OH	Taji	small arms fire	2/1 Cav
06.16.07	Zachary A. Grass	22	SPC	Beach City, OH	Rashidiyah	IED	2/12 FA
06.16.07	Danny R. Soto	24	SGT	Houston, TX	Rashidiyah	IED	2/12 FA
06.23.07	Joel A. Dahl	21	SGT	Los Lunas, NM	Baghdad	small arms fire	2/23 Inf

The preceding chart lists *known* deaths of the 3rd and 4th Stryker Brigades during their most recent deployments, to the extent documented by the US Dept. of Defense. The 3rd Stryker Brigade is currently serving its second tour in Iraq. Its Stryker vehicles and related equipment were shipped from the Port of Olympia in late May 2006, a month before the actual soldiers were sent to the Middle East. The original mission of the 3rd Brigade was to secure "enduring" (a.k.a. *permanent*) military bases in Mosul. However, upon arrival, almost half of the brigade was routed to Baghdad. The Mosul contingent eventually rejoined the Baghdad contingent in Dec. 2006. The 3rd Brigade was also supposed to replace the 172nd Stryker Brigade. However, the 172nd Brigade's tour was extended by four months.

The 4th Stryker Brigade entered Iraq in the beginning of May 2007. Its Stryker vehicles were shipped out of the Port of Tacoma in March 2007. The 4th Stryker Brigade was originally supposed to replace the 3rd Stryker Brigade. However, the 3rd Brigade's tour was extended for three months. The 4th Brigade was also deployed two months earlier than originally planned, as part of the troop "surge." In order to meet this schedule, the 4th Brigade had to forgo final desert training at the National Training Center in California.

The 4th Brigade entered Iraq during the deadliest month for US troops since Nov. 2004. In its first month, the 4th Brigade lost as many soldiers as the 3rd Brigade lost in its first four months. As with the 3rd Brigade, the 4th Brigade's tour has been extended from one year to 15 months.

This chart does not list non-fatal casualties sustained by the two brigades, which would be considerably higher. Comparable information on the greater number of Iraqi casualties do not exist because, as we're told, the US doesn't do body counts—and they're all named "Hajji," anyway.

Unlike the Iraqi dead, considerable information about the lives and aspirations of these soldiers can be found on the internet. For instance, Anthony Bradshaw's MySpace page carried the boastful slogan, "Given Life to Take Life!" Casey Mellen's MySpace page indicated his hatred for George Bush, the US Army, and Iraq, which he described as "the biggest shit hole in the whole entire world." Mellen's page included a countdown clock that indicated how much time he had before he could leave the Army.

One particularly poignant comment comes from Staff Sgt. Darrell Griffin, a self-styled philosopher who wrote the following passage, not long before he was killed by a sniper:

"My heart finally broke for the Iraqi people. I wanted to just sit down and cry while saying I'm so, so sorry for what we had done. I had the acute sense that we had failed these people. It was at this time, and after an entire year of being deployed and well into the next deployment that I realized something. We burst into homes, frighten the hell out of families, and destroy their homes looking for an elusive enemy. We do this out of fear of the unseen and attempt to compensate for our inability to capture insurgents by swatting mosquitoes with a sledge-hammer in glass houses."

Right: Army-provided photo of the 3rd Stryker Brigade, whose vehicles, such as the one pictured here, shipped out of the Port of Olympia on May 31, 2006. The government-supplied caption reads: "US Army soldiers secure an area in Mansour, Iraq, March 20, 2007, while tracking down negative influence in the region in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom." *Photo by Spc. Elisha Dawkins, Joint Combat Camera Center.*

THE OLYMPIAN'S HANDLING OF TOPIC: POTENTIALLY HARMFUL

by Daisy Ouye

The purpose of a free press should be to create a well-informed public. Today so-called "mainstream" journalism has become far removed from that concept. Instead these publications often choose to print sensationally written stories that greedily grab attention however possible, pushing them into tabloid territory.

Local citizens saw an example of this tactic twice this month as the Daily "O" further distanced itself from a responsibility to the public. Recent coverage of a Lacey City Official who died by suicide was handled without consideration of the impact such coverage could have on the community. Studies have shown that reporting on suicide rates, advancements in treatment, and even a report covering an individual death can decrease suicide rates, if done properly. However, it must be done carefully or the results can be the opposite.

The Olympian printed an article, with an obvious lack of knowledge of recommended guidelines made available to journalists by suicide prevention experts. They broke almost every rule of reporting on this sensitive issue.

Research has proven that this kind of mishandling can cause what behavioral scientists refer to as contagion. Contagion occurs when someone who is already vulnerable or at high risk is influenced to imitate a story of death by suicide in the news. When a person at risk identifies with the individual in the story easily because the coverage is romanticized, idealized or just too detailed, suicide rates can increase. Careful consideration must be taken not to inadvertently encourage imitation in those already at high risk.

The use of the word "suicide" should be avoided in headlines, and placing an article about an individual death by suicide at the top of the front page is a reckless move. Contagion can be caused by reporting that is too dramatic or too detailed. *The Olympian*'s article depicted a play-by-play style report that was dramatic, attention-grabbing and completely inappropriate. Using language that seems to "criminalize" death by suicide can increase the stigma of shame unfairly felt by those already vulnerable, discouraging them from seeking help.

The Olympian's headline noted that people in the area were "stunned," but offered no information of value that might help them cope and understand this subject that is seemingly taboo in the US. The way the Daily "O" presented this story left the reader with a sense of this death being somewhat inexplicable, perpetuating the idea that death by suicide is unpreventable.

In a clear display of ignorance to sensitivity in regards to covering this story, the article ended with a reference to a man accused of a sexual offense earlier this year. The only connection between them was that they both worked for the city. The criminalizing effect this had was evident in the "O"'s comments section for the article.

The Olympian printed a second article about a week later that, again, put the word "suicide" in the headline at the top of the front page. Again, this was in reference to an individual death, but the article referred to a member of the group of Americans most at risk: war veterans.

The Daily "O"'s article was about Madigan Army Medical Center's refusal to make facilities safer, despite this individual's death. Writing such an article provides an opportunity to raise awareness on this important subject.

A recent study, conducted by Portland State University and published by the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health*, revealed that suicide rates are twice as high for war veterans as they are for civilians. The study looked at 300,000 men who have become vets since WWII. Those found to be at highest risk have endured disability, psychological or emotional trauma. By including this kind of information, a journalist can empower the community with useful information.

Recent legislation, The Joshua Omvig Veteran Suicide Prevention Act, recognizes death by suicide as a serious problem among those suffering post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), common in today's returning vets and made newly raw for vets of earlier wars. *The Olympian* didn't discuss it in their article, though.

Tom Harkin (D–IA) is sponsoring new legislation that recognizes suicide as a serious problem among those suffering post traumatic stress disorder. Unanimously approved by the House, the Joshua Omvig Veteran Suicide Prevention Act seeks to implement a comprehensive program aimed at reducing suicide in vets returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Gaining Senate sponsorship and likely to pass, it would begin the research and training necessary to also put into effect appropriate treatment programs, including alcohol and substance abuse treatment, 24-hour care, and a toll-free hotline. It would educate families about warning signs and increase awareness about suicide and suicide prevention in veteran communities.

The ACLU stated that in 2005, 83 soldiers died by suicide in Iraq and another 22 such deaths were tracked that year upon return home.

Still, the US government reports an official total number of 122 suicide deaths since the war began. This seemingly low number diminishes how serious the problem truly is.

One soldier, Evan Knappenberger doesn't think that number could be right, with 15 suicides deaths in his unit alone. That was in Iraq. Evan says he doesn't know if there have been any more since they got back, but he said those deaths aren't included in official US military death tolls, because suicides are not considered war casualties.

The Veteran Suicide Prevention Act is long overdue. While this new program will target the treatment of growing numbers of returning vets, it does not address veterans of other wars.

As the new study states, veterans from all wars are at risk. Today, Vietnam Vets especially, are recognizing similarities to experiences and circumstances they've endured in Vietnam, in present-day Iraq. This can make memories newly raw for many veterans already in this high risk group.

As this legislation seeks to raise awareness, there is a media in place that fails to do so. Dramatic reporting may sell papers, but informed, responsible investigative journalism can save lives.

For more info about suicide prevention: Youth Suicide Prevention Program, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA, National Suicide Prevention Hotline. For immediate help, call 1 800-273-TALK.

Daisy Ouye is an independent journalist. Born in Michigan, she has been an Olympia resident for 16 years.